

**CHANGE OF STATIONS OF TROOPS U. S.**

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**LETTER**

FROM

**THE SECRETARY OF WAR,**

TRANSMITTING REPORTS

**OF CHANGE OF STATIONS**

OF THE

**TROOPS OF THE UNITED STATES,**

**DURING THE YEAR 1827.**

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**JANUARY 7, 1827.**

Read, and laid on the table.

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**WASHINGTON :**

**PRINTED BY GALES & SEATON.**

**1828.**



## DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

*January 4th, 1828.*

SIR : In obedience to a resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 20th ultimo, I have the honor of submitting, herewith, the enclosed reports which contain the information called for in the resolution, viz : from the Major General commanding the Army, from the Quartermaster General, and from the Surgeon General.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES BARBOUR.

To the Honorable ANDREW STEVENSON,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*



## HEAD QUARTERS OF THE ARMY,

*Washington, December 22d, 1827.*

SIR : In compliance with your directions, I have now the honor to report, in answer to a resolution of the House of Representatives, requiring to be informed "when the present regulation respecting the removal of troops from one post or fortification to another commenced ; the advantages expected to be derived therefrom ; and the actual expense attending the same, each and every year since its adoption."

The only "regulation" known to the Army, "respecting the removal of troops from one post to another," since the Declaration of our Independence as a nation, is to be found in that discretionary power, inherent in the President as Commander-in-Chief, or in a General commanding an army, to make such disposition of the troops as may be demanded by the high interests of the public service, and by that measure of justice and impartiality which may be due to the troops themselves.

Invested with this important trust ; possessing alone the requisite lights and information for its efficient discharge ; and bearing the full responsibility incident to its exercise ; the Executive Departments of Government have always been wont to employ the means and powers belonging to their official functions, as in their discretion would most conduce to the public weal. Amongst these powers, that of causing occasional movements of troops, has ever been considered as one of ordinary character and necessary consequence, and, since the formation of our Government, it has uniformly been exercised it is presumed, strictly according to the wants and exigencies of the public service.

Within the current year, a change has taken place in the stations of the Artillery regiments, conformable to a policy, which, in time of peace, seems absolutely necessary, both for the maintenance of military discipline and efficiency, and for the equitable dispensation of justice to the troops.

Without citing the invariable practice of the European Powers, possessing West India colonies, of relieving their garrisons stationed in those sickly regions, at short and regular periods, it will be only necessary to state the fact that one of our regiments, lately relieved from the Gulf frontier, has constantly furnished garrisons for the dreary and sickly posts in that quarter, since the organization of the Army in 1821. The number of deaths amongst the officers of that



regiment, within this period of six years, has amounted to *sixteen*, being four times greater than the average number in all the other regiments of Artillery.

Ever ready to obey the calls of the country, and to devote its last energies in her defence, the Army still look to its Government for justice and impartiality in its dispensations. Neither severity of discipline, nor rigor of service, will ever be complained of, while its distributions are made with fairness and equity.

The occasional movement of troops, is, on other grounds, highly instrumental to the preservation of discipline and efficiency. It often happens, indeed, that *individual* interests are more or less prejudiced by these changes of station, but such interests must ever be viewed as secondary to those important attributes of military character, which are originally purchased by the Nation at a high price, and can be preserved only by an active and habitual *exercise* of them, in those employments to which they are fitted and predestined.

Troops have been also moved to, and from, the Artillery and Infantry Schools of Practice, for the purposes of military instruction, or frontier defence. During the last Autumn, a detachment from Jefferson Barracks was marched against the Winnebago Indians; and, after having repressed their hostility, captured the offenders, and restored tranquillity to the settlements, the command returned to Jefferson Barracks.

If it be an object to secure the martial energy and vigor of a Peace Establishment, from that natural decay which is superinduced by habitual inactivity and ease, too much care cannot be taken, in its administration, to guard against the encroachments of sloth; to multiply objects of ambition, and to encourage all measures which tend to stimulate the energies and elevate the character. Long quiescence at particular stations is incompatible with these objects; and while the guardians of the Army continue to cherish that pride in its reputation, and that hope in its future usefulness and glory, with which they are now animated, they will hold it to be one of their highest duties, to employ all the means with which they may be legitimately invested, to improve its moral, invigorate its energies, and render it worthy of that confidence and esteem with which the nation are willing to regard it.

I have the honor to be, Sir, most respectfully your ob<sup>d</sup>t. serv<sup>t</sup>.

JAC. BROWN.

HON. JAMES BARBOUR,  
*Secretary of War.*

## QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,

*December 21st, 1827.*

SIR: In compliance with your order of this date, requiring a report of the expense incurred by the movements of the artillery regiments, under the order of the 11th of October last, I have the honor to state, that, so far as reports have been received from the officers charged with the execution of the details, the expense incurred is ascertained to be \$13,532 84; to which should be added \$1500 for the estimated expense of transporting two companies from Louisiana to the city of New York, (which will complete the contemplated movements.) and about six hundred dollars for travelling allowance to officers; making, in all, the sum of \$15,632 84.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS S. JESUP,

*Q. M. General.*

Hon. JAMES BARBOUR,

*Secretary of War.*

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## SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,

*January 4th, 1827.*

SIR: In compliance with your instructions, I have the honor to report, that the only expense that is known to have occurred in the Medical Department, in consequence of the late exchange of the regiments of artillery, is a bill of \$48 76 cts. paid for attendance on the sick left at Fort Preble, during the absence of the Surgeon.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH LOVELL,

*Surgeon General.*

Hon. JAMES BARBOUR,

*Secretary of War.*

